

# Empower!

GIVING VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES A VOICE



A Publication of the Metropolitan Police Department's Victim Services Branch

Summer 2022 | Volume 14, Issue 2

## Message from Tyria Fields



Tyria Fields

The heat is definitely here in the District of Columbia. While we are still making our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Metropolitan Police Department has a lot to offer especially during the summer months. Aside from direct advocacy work with

victims in the aftermath of a crime, the Victim Services Branch is also spending the summer in the community fostering new relationships and enhancing those already established. Please stop by for a chat and grab some valuable information on empowerment, advocacy, and ed-

ucation. We are always ready and eager to bring our services to you. Take care

## Upcoming Events and Activities

### August

#### Beat the Streets

See link for specific dates & locations

Beat The Streets-DC is an opportunity for members of the community to experience the lighter side of the police department while enjoying dancing, free food, and fun.

Learn more at <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/beat-streets-2022>

#### Created2Create: Infusing Art Sessions w/Life Lessons (Paint & Sip)

August 18 and 25; September 8 & 22 // 5-7 pm (Thursdays)

Sponsoring Agency:  
Covenant House Greater Washington

CONTACT:  
Cary Michael Robinson (Artbae/CEO)  
[info@artbaeonline.com](mailto:info@artbaeonline.com)

REGISTER:  
[arttherapythursdays.eventbrite.com](https://arttherapythursdays.eventbrite.com)

#### Created2Create: Infusing Art Sessions w/Life Lessons (Paint & Sip)

August 27, Sept. 10 & 17 // 11 am-1 pm (Saturdays)

Sponsoring Agency:  
The Safe Sisters Circle

CONTACT:  
Cary Michael Robinson (Artbae/CEO)  
[info@artbaeonline.com](mailto:info@artbaeonline.com)

REGISTER:  
[artsolacesaturdays.eventbrite.com](https://artsolacesaturdays.eventbrite.com)

#### Virtual Stewards of Children® Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training

August 17 // 10 am-12:30 pm  
Sept. 21 (In person) // 10 am-12:30 pm  
This training teaches adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The program is designed for individuals concerned about the safety of children as well as organizations that serve youth.

Sponsoring Agency:  
Safe Shores - The DC Children's Advocacy Center

REGISTER:  
[www.safeshores.org/get-involved/stewards-of-children](https://www.safeshores.org/get-involved/stewards-of-children)

CONTACT:  
Kaylan Weems at [kweems@safeshores.org](mailto:kweems@safeshores.org)

#### Community Family Life Services Speakers Bureau

October 15-December 3 (Saturdays)  
Application Deadline: August 19 // 5 pm  
The CFLS Speakers Bureau is looking for

applicants for its Seventh Cohort! This syndicate of women speaking professionally on their lived experiences, provides a platform for survivors of trauma such as domestic violence, human trafficking, and incarceration to learn public speaking skills, progress in their healing journey, and become agents of change.

APPLICATION LINK:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/Baw507SNME>

CONTACT:  
Joe D'Antonio, [jdantonio@cflsdc.org](mailto:jdantonio@cflsdc.org)

CFLS Parenting Program:  
Nurturing Skills for Families  
Meets every Wednesday for 15 Weeks // 6 pm  
Designed to support the stability of the most at-risk families in DC to prevent child abuse and neglect by empowering parents and strengthening families.

CONTACT:  
Tamara Brooks, [tbrooks@cflsdc.org](mailto:tbrooks@cflsdc.org)

Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development  
August 24 // 11 am - 12:30 pm  
This Safe Shores - The DC Children's Advocacy Center program helps participants better understand the sexual development of children, and how to respond to children's sexual behaviors and questions in ways that promote healthy development.

REGISTER:  
[www.safeshores.org/get-involved/additional-trainings](https://www.safeshores.org/get-involved/additional-trainings)

CONTACT:  
Kaylan Weems at [kweems@safeshores.org](mailto:kweems@safeshores.org)

### September

#### Vision Zero Summit September 13

The Vision Zero Summit brings together elected officials, decision-makers, advocates, thought leaders, and the private sector to share best practices, insights and innovations to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on our region's streets and highways.

Sponsoring Agency:  
Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA)

CONTACT:  
[waba@waba.org](mailto:waba@waba.org) // (202) 518-0524

#### National Day of Remembrance for Murdered Victims

Saturday, September 25  
This day is dedicated to honoring homicide victims and their surviving family members.  
<https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/national-day-remembrance-murder-victims>

—Sharon Daugherty

## Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting

### Resources

For more information on future NOK Meetings contact the Family Liaison Specialists Unit at (202) 645-6363.

**M**PD's Family Liaison Specialists Unit organized the annual Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting in June. Family members of open homicide cases from 2012 were invited to attend a personal meeting with a Cold Case detective. These detectives work closely with other Law Enforcement agencies, US Attorney's Office, and other criminal justice agencies to develop leads and obtain information that may result in an arrest.

MPD is continually working to update the unsolved homicide web page. If your loved one was killed in the District and their picture does



not appear on this website (<https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/unsolved-homicides>), please email a photo to [unsolved.murder@dc.gov](mailto:unsolved.murder@dc.gov). Provide the name of your loved one and the year they were killed.

MPD's Victim Specialists provide supportive services and resources, as well as collaborate with community agencies on events to support secondary victims of homicide. On May 1, 2022, the DC Chapter Moms of Black Boys United (M.O.B.B.) and "Our Hearts Have Wings" hosted a Pre-Mother's Day Mimosa Brunch to honor and support mothers of homicide victims in the DMV. At the Brunch, mothers celebrated and sup-

ported each other while remembering their loved ones. Participants were given a picture frame to display their loved one and take home as a special give. Another event included a Special Broadcast on WGMLB internet radio with DJ STRATE, Ms. **Rochica McBryde** of "Our Hearts Have Wings" and Ms. **Lisa B.** of M.O.B.B. to bring awareness to gun violence.

If you would like to speak to a Cold Case Detective, please contact the Family Liaison Specialists Unit at (202) 645-6363 or [victim.services@dc.gov](mailto:victim.services@dc.gov). If you want information on upcoming events, you can join VSB's google page at <https://groups.google.com/g/official-mpd-vsbs>.

—Marlene Castro

## Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

### Resources

For more information on how to request services in your area, contact the DC311.

- Call DC 311 at 311 or (202) 737-4404 if calling from outside the District
- Text "NEW" or "MENU" to 32311 (DC311)
- Tweet the Office of Unified Communications at @311DCGov
- Visit the Online Portal at [311.dc.gov](https://311.dc.gov)
- Download the DC 311 Mobile App from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store
- Live Chat with a 311 Customer Service Representative via the 311 Online Portal
- Live Chat is available 8 AM–5:15 PM

**T**he MPD Homicide Reduction Partnership (HRP) along with the Deputy Mayor's Office for Public Safety are working to reduce violent crime in the District of Columbia. There are several high crime priority areas within the sixth and seventh district police stations, specifically, PSA 603, 604, 706 and 708 that accounted for 21% of all murders citywide in 2021. One of the many tools being used to tackle this issue is Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED is a multi-disciplinary approach to crime prevention that uses urban and architectural design and the management of built and natural environments to create safer neighborhoods. CPTED suggests that you can change how people act in a place by altering its design. The

intended result of 1st Generation CPTED is the minimization of criminal opportunity.

For more information on CPTED, check out [www.cpted.net](http://www.cpted.net).

Recently, our partners at the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs launched a new program to engage local artists of color to transform vacant, blighted buildings into artwork. The program, "Vacant-to-Visual" currently focuses on eight vacant buildings in neighborhoods across the city. It is an effort to improve the health and safety of communities near vacant and sometimes dangerous buildings, as well as offer economic opportunity to local artists.

Additionally, the Department of Public Works and other partner agencies are doing their part to clean up



neighborhoods and provide resources to community members. Throughout the summer, these efforts are highlighted at community events such as the "202 for Peace Walks and Community Resource Pop-up Fairs" and "MPD Beat the Streets."

For more information, please come out to join us in our efforts to help promote peace and end gun violence in the District. Visit [202forpeace.dc.gov](https://202forpeace.dc.gov).

—Mark Timberlake

## FAQ: Alternative Burial Assistance

### Resources

For additional resources, contact the Victim Services Branch at (202) 645-6363 or [victim.services@dc.gov](mailto:victim.services@dc.gov).

**Q: Is assistance available for cases that are not eligible for funeral/burial benefits through Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP)?**

**A:** When cases do not meet the eligibility requirements for the Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP), families are often left scrambling for resources to assist with funeral costs. For this reason, it is important to delay signing a contract with a funeral home until the final Approval Funeral Expenses Letter is received. According to the Compensation Program, "Claims Examiner has 7 business days from the date of acceptance to review the application, to determine if the claimant is eligible to receive the compensation requested, including funeral expenses."

For more information call (202) 879-4216 or visit [www.dccourts.gov/services/crime-victims-compensation](http://www.dccourts.gov/services/crime-victims-compensation)

For cases that are not eligible, families may qualify for certain subsidized services and/or funeral/burial funds from state burial assistance programs in the jurisdiction that the deceased resided. These programs often contract with specific funeral providers so it is important to know

the eligibility guidelines before choosing a funeral provider. Below is information on burial assistance programs in DC and Maryland.

### DC Department of Human Service's Burial Assistance Program

The Burial Assistance Program in DC provides a maximum of \$1000.00 towards the cost of burial or \$650.00 towards the cost of cremation. Assistance is provided if the deceased is determined eligible and the total cost of the burial or cremation does not exceed more than \$2000. All payments are made directly to the funeral home and families will not be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses if they do not use a funeral home contracted by the program.

The following eligibility factors apply:

- » The deceased must have been a DC Resident (verified by ID, lease, utility bill, etc.)
- » Money available to the deceased at the date of death must not exceed \$1000 (final paychecks, social security checks, bank accounts, life insurance policies)
- » Burial/Cremation Services MUST be arranged through a funeral home under contract with the District's Burial Program. Funeral Homes under contract includes D.L. McLaughlin Funeral Home, Ronald Taylor Funeral Home, and Capitol Mortuary.

For information on how to apply, call (202) 698-4112 or visit <https://dhs.dc.gov/service/burial-assistance>.

### Maryland's Department of Human Services Burial Assistance Program

Burial Assistance Programs in Maryland provide financial help with funeral expenses for family members of deceased residents who either were recipients of public assistance programs or met the eligibility requirements of a program administered within the Department of Human Services. Programs may include Foster Care, Public Assistance to Adults (PAA), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP), Medical Assistance (MA), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

To apply for burial assistance, call (800) 332-6347 or complete a Burial Assistance Contact Form online at <https://dhs.maryland.gov/weathering-tough-times/burial-assistance>.

Grieving the loss of a loved one can be stressful without the added financial burden of paying for funeral costs. If you are awaiting a ruling from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) or a decision from CVCP, it is important to make sure you are knowledgeable of the guidelines of various assistance programs before proceeding with signing a contract with a funeral provider. This knowledge will allow you to access the best resources available and keep you from suffering unnecessary financial burden during this process.

—Megan Riley





## Homicide Branch Supports Survivors in the Community

**C**aptain Kevin Kentish and Lieutenant Christopher Petz of the

Homicide Branch were guest speakers at the 1st Annual “NO MORE CRIME NO MORE TEARS” Event hosted by the Woman’s Talk Outreach Ministries (MJ-15). The event was held on Saturday, July 23, 2022, at Marvin Gaye Park. The ministry’s mission: Helping and Healing the land one person at a time. Founder and CEO, **Elder Designate Alvoncia Jackson** (Missy Jackson) started the outreach program after the murder of her grandson, 15-year-old **Malachi Jackson**, in December 2021. The Outreach Ministry provides food, shelter, referrals, and adult/youth educational programs. Ms. Jackson shares that her passion is to



help the DMV community as she honors her grandson’s memory.

She is committed to serving others with respect and self-alliance, her motto is that the ministry is not an ordinary Social Service Program, they are here to offer a holistic approach to healing.

For more information contact Ms. **Carolyn Josey**, Executive Secretary, at [crb-josey@gmail.com](mailto:crb-josey@gmail.com), or Elder Missy Jackson at [womas-talk@yahoo.com](mailto:womas-talk@yahoo.com).

—Carla Okonkwo



# Breaking Bread & Breaking Barriers

## Resources

National Sexual Violence Resource Center. [www.nsvrc.org/saam](http://www.nsvrc.org/saam)

On June 25th, 2022, Victim Services Branch, 6D MPD, Breadcoin, and Gospel Ark Temple Church hosted “Breaking Bread & Breaking Barriers” with PSA 604 neighborhood residents. We reached out to everyone in the neighborhood, some who have been experiencing victimization, trauma, high crime volume, food scar-



city, poverty, and homelessness. The day provided opportu-

nities to create a deeper personal connection between our MPD Police Department and the community through the experience of dining together, communing at the table, talking over sno-cones, listening to the DJ in a means that provided dignity of choice and food to everyone. We reached over 125 people who came by to enjoy Breaking Bread together.

—Sharon Daugherty

# Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project

## Resources

See an extensive LGBTQ resource list at [www.montgomerycollege.edu/\\_documents/life-at-mc/mc-pride/washington-dc-area-lgbts-resources.pdf](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/_documents/life-at-mc/mc-pride/washington-dc-area-lgbts-resources.pdf).

## DVRP Helps Abused A/PIs

DVRP was founded to ensure that abused Asian/Pacific Islander (A/PI) survivors reaching out for assistance would have access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services. Since 1996, the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project (DVRP) has provided services to survivors of domestic violence in Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia. They were founded by survivors and continue to be survivor-led and driven.

DVRP provides multi-lin-

qual advocacy, case management, civil legal representation, economic/financial advocacy, emergency assistance, immigration services, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender services, peer adult assistance, teen outreach services. DVRP has advocates who speak Cantonese, Farsi, Hindi, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Nepali, Punjabi, Tagalog, Thai, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

They also provide Community Education Workshops on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Consent & Boundaries, Healthy Relationships, Nurturing Safe Spaces and more. In these spaces, we engage with community members who are interested in learning more about gender-based violence as well as interpersonal violence using a Queer Black Feminist, abolitionist critical analysis.

To learn more, visit [www.dvrp.org](http://www.dvrp.org) or call their hotline at (202) 833-2233.

## AAPI Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence

Recently, the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Vi-

olence released the AAPI culturally-specific Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence, pictured below. See [www.api-gbv.org/about-gbv/our-analysis/lifetime-spiral](http://www.api-gbv.org/about-gbv/our-analysis/lifetime-spiral). The Lifetime Spiral reveals patterns of victimization. In addition to physical, sexual, economic and emotional abuses, violence is about living in a climate of fear, shame, coercive control, and devaluation. It is often experienced in the context of additional oppressions based on race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, type of labor performed, level of education, class position, disability, and immigration or refugee status. Raising awareness about the historical nature of gender violence confronts victim-blaming, informs advocacy, and empowers survivors.

—Sharon Daugherty



# Letters & Kudos

## Share Your Story

Send a letter detailing your experiences — positive or negative — to [victim.services@dc.gov](mailto:victim.services@dc.gov) or send via US Mail to:

- Family Liaison Specialists Unit 101 M Street SW Washington, DC 20024

## Helping with a Loss

**B**lessings, Ms. Riley. I pray all is well. I left you a voicemail on your cell. I/we just want to say thank you so very much for EVERYTHING as you helped us with Alphonzo Jones. So very much appreciated. We will definitely need grief counseling... Peace and Blessings

—P.F.

## A Most Trusted Supporter

**M**rs. McHenry became one of my most trusted supports in coping with the assault, helping me complete my victim compensation fund request, discussing with me how to be and feel safe from the perpetrator, making sure I was connected with legal and mental health services, and

so much more. I don't know what I did to have the great fortune of being assigned to work with Mrs. McHenry, but I thank God for her, I truly do.

—E.A.



Metropolitan Police Department  
Victim Services Branch/Family Liaison Specialists Unit  
101 M Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024